2117. [*Transferred to the 7th August, 1989*]

Proposal to reduce the newsprint price

2118. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to reduce the newsprint price;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government does not exercise any statutory control on the prices of indigenous newsprint. The prices of imported newsprint are governed by international market trends and other relevant factors. However, appreciating the difficulties of small and medium newspapers customs duty has been reduced for glazed newsprint at 100 per cent and 50 per cent for small and medium newspapers respectively. Besides, they have also been offered the cheaper indigenous newsprint from NEPA mill.

पूर्वी दिल्ली में समाज विरोधी तत्वों द्वारा धांधली किया जाना

2119. **श्री सुनील कुमार पट्टनायक :** क्या **खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति विभाग की मंडल संख्या 43 के आस-पास कुछ समाज विरोधी तत्व छलपूर्ण तरीकों से तथा आम आदमी को राशन कार्ड दिलाने के संबंध में गुमराह करके धन एकत्र कर रहे हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इस मामले की जांच करने तथा समाज विरोधी तत्वों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही करने का विचार रखती है ;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुख राम) : (क) दिल्ली प्रशासन ने सूचित किया है कि ऐसे किसी मामले की सूचना उन्हें नहीं दी गई है ।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Under utilisation of funds meant for NREP and RLEGP by Orissa

2120. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has not been able to utilize fully the funds allotted under the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, but has claimed that with the effective relief measures, State could tide even the effects of drought;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the names of the States which have overcome the ill effects of drought and the States which are still reeling under the adverse impact of drought; and

(d) the remedial measures taken to minimise the effect of drought in the drought prone States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) and (b) The percentage utilisation of resources by Orissa during 1987-88 and 1988-89 under National Rural Employment Programme (NREP)

and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) and the percentage utilisation at the All India level is given in the following table :

Sl. No.	Year	% Utilisation of availlable resources			
		Orissa		All India	
		NREP	RLEGP	NREP	RLEGP
1	1987-88	77.71	62.91	75.52	76.06
2	1988-89	89.00	84.48	68.77	70.48

The perusal of the table would show that the percentage utilisation in Orissa was comparable to the National average. The Government of Orissa in a White Paper on Drought situation in Orissa (1987-88) expressed confidence of being able to contain the drought situation and eleminating serious distress.

(c) No report of the drought condition has been rceived from any State so far after the commencement of the current south-west monsoon period.

(d) Central assistance for drought relief in the wake of crop failure include agriculture input subsidy, drinking water Programmes, employment generation works, cattle conservation, fodder supply, supplementary nutrition programme and facilities for conversion of short-term loans into medium-term loans. Long term measures to minimise the effect of drought in the drought prone areas ar attempted through programmes like Drought Prone Area Programme.

Survey conducted by mineral exploration corporation

2121. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mineral Exploration Corporation had undertaken drilling, mining and survey works in some States during the last three years;

(b) if so, the names of such States;

(c) whether any survey mining of drilling activities were undertaken by the Mineral Exploration Corporation in Orissa during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. MECL, during the last three years, had undertaken drilling, mining and survey works in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Haryana, Karnataka, Orissa, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Goa and North eastern States.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. MECL, during the last three years, carried out detailed exploration for coal in Talcher coalfields on behalf of Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (Coal India Ltd.). Ground Water drilling was also undertaken in the districts of Baripada, Ganjam, Koraput and Keonjhar of Orissa on behalf of Ground Water Board and Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Orissa.